
To: All IHCD Partners

Notice: RED-12-50

From: IHCD Real Estate Department

Date: October 1, 2012

Re: Fire Safety Week

Fire Prevention Week is October 7th thru the 13th this year, and yes it is time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors again. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home structure fires in half.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that:

- In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 484,500 home fires. These fires killed 2,640 civilians. Eighty-three percent of all fire deaths resulted from home fires.
- Someone was injured in a home fire every 40 minutes and roughly eight people died in home fires every day during 2008.
- A fire department responded to a home fire every 23 seconds.
- Almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths in 2010-2011 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- About 1/3 of home fires and deaths happened in the months of December, January and February.
- Cooking continues to be the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
- Smoking materials caused one of every four home fire deaths.
- The kitchen is the leading area of origin for home fires. However, bedrooms and living/family rooms are the leading areas of origin for home fire deaths.



When smoke alarms fail it is most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Nuisance activations were the leading cause of disabled smoke alarms. Smoke detectors should be replaced after a 10-year service, as the sensors are no longer effective after 10-years, and

for smokers who smoke in their home, the service life is shortened and detectors should be replaced much sooner than 10-years.

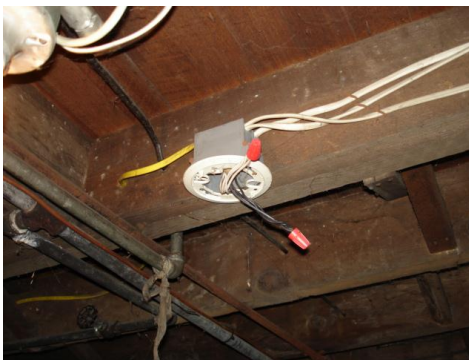
Sparky the fire safety dog says that everyone needs to ensure that they have two escape routes from their homes.

Bedroom windows serve as emergency escape & rescue openings, and we need to ensure that these windows are operable.

With the recent drought conditions causing buildings to settle, windows may also be affected and may no longer be able to be opened, or be very hard to open, where this should be checked as well as changing smoke detector batteries this year.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that:

- Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.
- A 2008 U.S. telephone survey found that 96% of U.S. households had at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2003-2006, no smoke alarms were present or none operated in two out of the five (41%) of the reported home fires.
- No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire deaths.



In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms.

In Indiana it is against the law to disable or tamper with smoke detectors except when necessary for maintenance purposes. Smoke Detector Violations include the possibility of being charged with a Class A, B, or C infraction, or a Class D Felony. Reference Indiana Code IC 22-11-18-5. Smoke Detector Violations are indeed a serious offense. Smoke Detectors do save lives and Indiana Laws require them to be in place, operational, and maintained.

Please change those smoke detector batteries and enjoy peace of mind that you have raised the level of safety in your home for another year.

And most importantly! This year check to see that your bedroom windows will open after the drought caused a lot of settling.

